

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 OSLO 01748 141718Z  
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00  
CIAE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05  
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00  
/060 W

-----141723Z 074061 /44

O R 141647Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3552  
INFO SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
CSAF WASHDC  
OSAF WASHDC  
USIA WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
/AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN IMMEDIATE 3940  
USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GE  
AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD  
ASD WRIGHT PATTERSON AFB OH

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 1748

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: MASS, MTOL, MILI, DA, NO  
SUBJECT: F-16, GAO, LOA: WILL NORWAY ENTER THE SCRUM?

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 2142 (B) STATE 79759

1. TO DATE NORWEGIAN PRESS TREATMENT OF PUBLIC CAMPAIGN IN DENMARK TO REOPEN F-16 DEBATE HAS BEEN MILD. VARIOUS OFFICIALS OF GON'S MOD HAVE ATTEMPTED TO PUT GAO REPORT INTO CONTEXT IN LINE WITH REFTELS AND TO CORRECT RECORD WHERE NECESSARY. MEDIA INTEREST IN ANY EVENT HAS BEEN LUKE-WARM.

2. EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT STORTING (PARLIAMENT)  
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DEFENSE COMMITTEE WILL REPORT OUT F-16 BILL APPROXIMATELY 20 APRIL WITH LEGISLATIVE DEBATE SCHEDULED TO CONCLUDE BY 26 APRIL. MOD OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THAT ALLEGED HIGH SPEED LANDING AND ENGINE STAGNATION PROBLEMS MENTIONED IN PRESS COVERAGE OF GAO REPORT CAME AS NO SURPRISE TO THEM. IN FACT, THEY HAD ALREADY TAKEN STEPS TO CORRECT LANDING DIFFICULTIES THROUGH DRAG CHUTE AND THEIR TECHNICAL EXPERTS HAVE CONCLUDED

THAT IF F-16 HAD HIGH SPEED ENGINE PROBLEM (WHICH THEY RECOGNIZE IT DOES NOT) THAT DIFFICULTY, TOO, COULD BE CORRECTED DURING PRODUCTION PHASE. IN SHORT, GON OFFICIALS WE HAVE TALKED TO FORESEE NO TECHNICAL DIFFICULTY IN MEETING THEIR MAY DEADLINE FOR SIGNATURE OF LOA.

3. MOD SECRETARY GENERAL STEPHANSEN TOLD DCM APRIL 14 THAT HIS COUNTERPART (CHRISTIANSEN) IN COPENHAGEN HAD CALLED APRIL 13 TO INFORM HIM THAT MINISTER MOLLER IS FACING DEFINITE POLITICAL DIFFICULTIES AND WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO ASK USG FOR EXTENSION OF DEADLINE (CHRISTIANSEN SAID UNTIL JUNE 1 THOUGH WE NOTE THIS IS NOT WHAT MOLLER HIMSELF TOLD AMBASSADOR DEAN). ACCORDING TO STEPHANSEN, CHRISTIANSEN TOLD HIM THAT THE GOD IS INTERESTED IN GAINING SUPPORT FROM OTHER EPG NATIONS FOR EXTENSION, ALTHOUGH NO FORMAL COMMUNICATION REQUESTING SAME HAS YET BEEN MADE TO GON.

4. DCM ASKED STEPHANSEN IF FACT THAT GON FELT IT COULD MEET MAY 2 DEADLINE MEANT THAT GON WOULD NOT SUPPORT GOD EXTENSION REQUEST. STEPHANSEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO SAY WHAT HIS MINISTER'S DECISION WOULD BE ASSUMING MOLLER MADE A FORMAL REQUEST TO HIM FOR NORWEGIAN SUPPORT.

5. COMMENT: RELATIVELY STABLE NORWEGIAN POLITICAL SITUATION HAS CLEARLY MILITATED AGAINST F-16 BECOMING DOMESTIC ISSUE TO EXTENT IT HAS IN DENMARK. ALTHOUGH OFFSET WILL CONTINUE TO BE PROBLEM WITH GON WE DOUBT IT WILL BE OF SAME MAGNITUDE AS WITH DANES. ON WHOLE, VARIOUS GON REPS HAVE PRONOUNCED THEMSELVES SATISFIED WITH OTHER ASPECTS OF F-16 PROGRAM.

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GON ITSELF CAN ALMOST CERTAINLY MEET MAY 2 DEADLINE AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT FOR LARGER PURPOSES OF QUOTE NORDIC SOLIDARITY UNQUOTE IT MIGHT DECIDE TO GO ALONG WITH MOLLER'S NEXT MOVE. GON MIGHT ALSO BE RELUCTANT TO BE ONLY COUNTRY TO SIGN MAY 2.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: STEPHANSEN HAS ASKED IF WE COULD OBTAIN FOR HIM COPIES OF GAO REPORT. WOULD APPRECIATE TWO COPIES FOR HIM AND ONE FOR US, IF POSSIBLE.

ANDERS

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NNN



## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** MASS, MPOL, MILI, DA, NO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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